



City of Seattle

July 8, 2010

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Jane Lubchenco
Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW, Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke and Under Secretary Lubchenco:

The recently released Department of Commerce (DOC) Inspector General's (IG) report on the Marine Operations Center-Pacific (MOC-P) site selection process highlights the many significant flaws that, from the beginning, undermined the integrity of the selection process. These flaws were so egregious that the entire MOC-P selection process was tainted. As a result, we request that NOAA reopen the process and follow its own rules by including existing federal facilities in their evaluation, as recommended by the IG.

From the beginning, each of us expected a fair and transparent process for the selection of NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Pacific. It should give NOAA pause that both of the government watchdog agencies with oversight of NOAA—first the General Accounting Office and now the DOC IG—have found the process used to select MOC-P's homeport to be faulty. Yet NOAA continues to move forward with its plans to move to the Port of Newport.

We believe the NOAA should admit its errors and do the right thing by beginning this entire process anew. It is the right thing to do for the Agency and the American taxpayer.

Sincerely,

[Version with signatures to be completed by noon on Friday, June 9th]

cc: Todd Zinser, Inspector General, Department of Commerce